



General Assembly

Substitute Bill No. 5154

February Session, 2012

* ____HB05154PD____032612____ *

AN ACT CONCERNING PLANNING REGIONS.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Assembly convened:

1 Section 1. Section 16a-4c of the general statutes is repealed and the
2 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from passage*):

3 (a) On or before January 1, [2012] 2014, and at least every twenty
4 years thereafter, the Secretary of the Office of Policy and Management,
5 within available appropriations, and in consultation with the
6 chairpersons and ranking members of the joint standing committee of
7 the General Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to
8 planning and development, the Connecticut Association of Regional
9 Planning Organizations, the Connecticut Conference of Municipalities
10 and the Connecticut Council of Small Towns, shall conduct an analysis
11 of the boundaries of logical planning regions designated or
12 redesignated under section 16a-4a. As part of such analysis, the
13 secretary shall examine the boundaries of existing planning regions
14 and develop criteria to evaluate [the impact of] opportunities for
15 coordinated planning and the regional delivery of services among
16 urban centers [on] and neighboring towns with a goal of reducing the
17 number of planning regions to not more than eight. Such criteria shall
18 include, but not be limited to, criteria to (1) evaluate trends in
19 economic development and the environment, including trends in
20 housing patterns, demographics, employment levels, commuting

21 patterns for the most common job classifications in the state, traffic
22 patterns on major [roadways] transportation assets, and local
23 perceptions of social and historic ties; and (2) establish a minimum size
24 for logical planning areas that takes into consideration the number of
25 municipalities, total population, [and the] total square mileage, and
26 any applicable federal requirements.

27 (b) Any two or more contiguous planning regions that contain a
28 total of fourteen or more municipalities and voluntarily consolidate to
29 form a single regional council of governments or regional council of
30 elected officials shall be exempt from redesignation pursuant to
31 subsection (a) of this section, provided the Secretary of the Office of
32 Policy and Management formally redesignates such planning regions
33 prior to January 1, 2014. The secretary may, in his or her discretion,
34 waive the requirement that such redesignated planning region contain
35 a total of fourteen or more municipalities.

36 ~~[(b)]~~ (c) (1) The secretary shall, not later than January 1, ~~[2012]~~ 2014,
37 notify the chief executive officer of each municipality located in a
38 planning region in which the boundaries are proposed for
39 redesignation. If the legislative body of the municipality objects to such
40 proposed redesignation, the chief executive officer of the municipality
41 may, not later than thirty days after the date of receipt of the notice of
42 redesignation, petition the secretary to attend a meeting of such
43 legislative body. The petition shall specify the location, date and time
44 of the meeting. The meeting shall be held not later than ~~[forty-five]~~
45 sixty days after the date of the petition. The secretary shall make a
46 reasonable attempt to appear at the meeting, or at a meeting on
47 another date within the ~~[forty-five-day]~~ sixty-day period. If the
48 secretary is unable to attend a meeting within the ~~[forty-five-day]~~
49 sixty-day period, the secretary and the chief executive officer of the
50 municipality shall jointly schedule a date and time for the meeting,
51 provided such meeting shall be held not later than ~~[one hundred~~
52 twenty] two hundred ten days after the date of the notice to the chief
53 executive officer. At such meeting, the legislative body of the
54 municipality shall inform the secretary of the objections to the

55 proposed redesignation of the planning area boundaries. The secretary
 56 shall consider fully the oral and written objections of the legislative
 57 body and may redesignate the boundaries. Not later than [forty-five]
 58 sixty days after the date of the meeting, the secretary shall notify the
 59 chief executive officer of the determination concerning the proposed
 60 redesignation. The notice of determination shall include the reasons for
 61 such determination. As used in this subsection, "municipality" means a
 62 town, city or consolidated town and borough; "legislative body" means
 63 the board of selectmen, town council, city council, board of alderman,
 64 board of directors, board of representatives or board of the [major]
 65 warden and burgesses of a municipality; and "secretary" means the
 66 [secretary] Secretary of the Office of Policy and Management or the
 67 designee of the secretary.

68 (2) Any revision to the boundaries of a planning area, based on the
 69 analysis completed pursuant to subsection (a) of this section or due to
 70 a modification by the secretary in accordance with this subsection,
 71 shall be effective on [the first day of July following the date of
 72 completion such analysis or modification] January 1, 2015.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	<i>from passage</i>	16a-4c

Statement of Legislative Commissioners:

Subsection (b) was rephrased for clarity and accuracy and, in subsection (c)(1), "major" was bracketed and "warden" was inserted in lieu thereof for accuracy.

PD *Joint Favorable Subst.*